

Master of Urban and Regional Planning Program  
**STUDENT HANDBOOK**  
Fall 2020



University of Colorado **Denver**



# WELCOME

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear MURP students,

We are delighted that you have selected the Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) degree at the University of Colorado Denver to further your career, and we welcome you to our dynamic and motivated community of students and faculty in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. You will find that the MURP program is hands-on, oriented to the real world, and uses Colorado as our classroom.

The MURP program is a two-year, fully-accredited program that has graduated over 1,400 alumni since its founding in 1971. As the only accredited graduate planning program in Colorado and the preeminent program in the Rocky Mountain West, we have a proud history of training exceptionally qualified individuals who achieve success in a variety of positions and careers. Our AICP pass rates and job placement are among the top in the country.

Our presence in the College of Architecture and Planning ensures that all courses have a strong connection to the built environment, and our location in the heart of downtown Denver presents our students with opportunities to learn what it takes to create amazing cities. The University of Colorado Denver is one of four campuses in the prestigious CU system; during your time here you will have access to courses, libraries, and other resources available across these campuses.

Our students come from all over the world to enroll in a unique curriculum that emphasizes three issues at the forefront of planning practice: Healthy Communities, Equitable Urbanism, and Regional Sustainability. Our self-directed elective curriculum allows students to understand the breadth of the planning field while gaining the technical expertise demanded by the profession.

Our world-class faculty includes some of the most respected researchers in planning academia as well as award-winning planning practitioners that bring a wealth of experience to the classroom. All of our faculty members make teaching a top priority.

The MURP program is an exceptional program and we welcome you into a cohort that shares your enthusiasm for planning and its potential to make the world a better place. For more information about our program, the application process, financial aid, etc., please visit the [MURP section](#) of the College of Architecture and Planning website.

Sincerely,



Austin Troy, PhD  
Chair, Department of Urban and Regional Planning



# ABOUT US

## OUR VALUES



### ADVOCACY

We believe planners must be visionary in their work, civically and politically engaged, and articulate proponents for positive change.



### COLLABORATION

We believe planners must understand and value the principles and perspectives of allied disciplines that participate in the city-building process.



### ENGAGEMENT

We believe students should learn planning by interacting directly with professionals and the public to solve real-world planning challenges.



### EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH

We believe that planning should be rooted in critical thinking, appropriate methods, and rigorous analysis for developing evidence-based solutions.



### SERVICE

We believe our program should serve as a resource for planners and the public by offering ideas, solutions, research, advocacy, and inspiration.



### SOCIAL JUSTICE

We believe planning must strive to create the most just and equitable processes and outcomes for those historically marginalized and underrepresented.



### SUSTAINABILITY

We believe planning must be based on the triple bottom line principles of economic viability, environmental resiliency, and social equity.

## OUR PROGRAM HALLMARKS



### ENGAGED & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

We give students numerous opportunities throughout our program to gain hands-on experience by participating in real-world projects and interacting with professional planners and community stakeholders. We use Denver's diverse urban setting and Colorado's natural landscapes as a classroom for students to engage with the built, natural, and social environments.



### PHYSICAL PLANNING ORIENTATION

We emphasize physical planning and design throughout our curriculum and connect them to policy, research, and the social sciences. We work closely with the College's Architecture, Urban Design, Landscape Architecture, and Historic Preservation programs to explore and develop applied solutions to urban social, economic, and environmental issues.



### INTERNATIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

We provide students the opportunity to study planning from an international perspective. By offering lecture courses that focus on global planning and development issues, studios that involve on-site coursework and engaged learning in other countries, and collaborations with organizations abroad, we help students expand their personal and educational worldview.



### INTEGRATED PLANNING TECHNOLOGIES

We integrate into our curriculum key professional technologies in realms such as digital mapping, 3D modeling, data visualization, and spatial analysis. We capitalize on Denver's tech-focused economy to provide students with state-of-the-art resources and numerous opportunities to learn a variety of technologies used as critical tools in the planning process.



### SELF-DIRECTED ELECTIVE CURRICULUM

We empower students with the opportunity to craft a planning education suited to their career goals and personal interests. Students may choose any combination of elective courses, whether oriented toward one of our three curriculum pillars, a traditional or customized planning specialization, or a generalist survey of the planning field.



### PROFESSIONAL & CAREER DEVELOPMENT

We present students with instruction, guidance, and resources for understanding the many career paths within planning and allied fields and how to strategically position themselves to achieve their professional and personal goals. We enable students to be prepared for not only their first job after graduate school, but for a lifelong career.



### DIVERSE FACULTY EXPERIENCE

We embody a planning faculty comprised of clinical professors, lecturers, adjuncts, and tenure-track professors who bring into the classroom a comprehensive mix of professional planning experience, expertise, creative activity, community leadership, scholarship, and research. All of our faculty make teaching a top priority.

# FACULTY AND STAFF

## FULL-TIME FACULTY



### NAN ELLIN

CAP Dean, Professor  
303-315-1020 / CAP 330  
[nan.ellin@ucdenver.edu](mailto:nan.ellin@ucdenver.edu)

College leadership and strategic visioning; urban design, placemaking, environmental, community and institutional health



### CARRIE MAKAREWICZ

Associate Professor  
303-315-1008 / CAP 513  
[carrie.makarewicz@ucdenver.edu](mailto:carrie.makarewicz@ucdenver.edu)

Community development, sustainable economic development strategies, transport equity, regional planning, urban school reform



### JEREMY NÉMETH

PhD in Geography, Planning, and Design Program Director, Professor  
303-315-0069 / CAP 504  
[jeremy.nemeth@ucdenver.edu](mailto:jeremy.nemeth@ucdenver.edu)

Urban design, urban politics, land use planning and conflicts, public space politics, environmental justice, shrinking cities



### ANDREW RUMBACH

Associate Professor  
303-315-1007 / CAP 509  
[andrew.rumbach@ucdenver.edu](mailto:andrew.rumbach@ucdenver.edu)

Disasters and climate change, environmental risk, urban resilience, international planning, small town and rural development



### KEN SCHROEPEL

Urban Design Program Director, Assistant Professor CTT  
303-315-1000 / CAP 507  
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Urban morphology, urban design, professional practice, planning methods, downtowns, planning history of Denver



### MANISH SHIRGAOKAR

Assistant Professor  
303-315-0336 / CAP 320W  
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Travel behavior, transportation technologies, disadvantaged groups, social equity aspects of infrastructure policy, land use and transportation connection



### JENNY STEFFEL JOHNSON

Department Associate Chair, Assistant Professor CTT  
303-315-0061 / CAP 320P  
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Affordable/mixed-income housing, community development, social justice, diverse communities, experiential education



### AUSTIN TROY

Department Chair, Professor  
303-315-1006 / CAP 330F  
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Land use policy, environmental planning, Geographic Information Systems, spatial analysis, remote sensing, green infrastructure planning

## ACADEMIC ADVISING

Roxy New serves as the MURP Academic Advisor and Course Coordinator on the College staff. She is the keeper of MURP student records and the person to ask about academic policies and which forms need to be filled out for different things. Roxy can help you with registering for classes and graduation requirements. If your question or issue has to do with anything administrative relating to the MURP program, CAP, or the University of Colorado Denver, start with Roxy. Please contact Roxy at [roxy.new@ucdenver.edu](mailto:roxy.new@ucdenver.edu) or 303-315-0343.

The Planning faculty are also an important advising resource for MURP students. The Planning faculty can help you with information about specific course content, career advice, and any other issues relating to the MURP curriculum, academic achievement, extracurricular activities, or urban and regional planning in general.

At the start of the fall semester, you will select an initial faculty advisor from among the full-time Planning faculty and will be required to have an introductory meeting with that faculty member during the first two weeks of the fall semester. After that, we have an "open door" policy on advising, which means you may stick with that initial faculty advisor, choose a different faculty member to be your advisor, or have multiple faculty advisors. You may choose your faculty advisors based on their expertise in a particular area of interest (see list below) or based on whatever criteria is important to you. You are welcome to change faculty advisors at any point or seek advice from multiple faculty members. You may work with your faculty advisor as much or as little as you need.

We recommend you use a MURP Program Planning Form to keep track of the courses you've taken and that you plan to take while you're a MURP student. Planning forms are also available to help guide dual-degree students (see the Document Library). Dual-degree students should have an advisor in each relevant department or college. Electronic Degree Auditing is available for all MURP students. This online system allows you to check which degree requirements you have personally satisfied and which ones remain. Instructions for accessing the degree audit are available [here](#). Other advising documents are available at MURPspace.

The following list offers suggestions for which faculty members to consult with regarding different areas of interest or expertise:

- Carrie Makarewicz: Community development, sustainable economic development strategies, transport equity, regional planning, urban school reform, real estate development
- Jeremy Németh: Placemaking and urban design, urban politics, land use planning, land use conflict, politics of public space, environmental justice, thesis and research
- Andrew Rumbach: Disasters and climate change, environmental risk, urban resilience, international planning, small town and rural development
- Ken Schroepfel: Urban development and revitalization, urban form, planning methods, planning history of Denver, professional engagement and networking, careers in planning
- Manish Shirgaokar: Transportation planning and technologies, disadvantaged groups, social equity aspects of infrastructure policy, land use/transportation connection
- Jennifer Steffel Johnson: Affordable housing, social justice, diverse communities, mixed-income housing, community development, internships and mentorships, dual degrees
- Austin Troy: Land use policy, environmental planning, Geographic Information Systems, spatial analysis, remote sensing, green infrastructure planning

# FACULTY AND STAFF

## AFFILIATE FACULTY



### JODY BECK

CAP Associate Dean, Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture  
303-315-2409

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Community food systems, food sovereignty, environmental/social justice, urban history and theory



### ALEX SCHAFRAN

Lecturer  
University of Leeds, United Kingdom

[a.schafran@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:a.schafran@leeds.ac.uk)

Urban studies, geography, social justice, transformation of suburbia, urban social movements



### JOERN LANGHORST

Associate Professor, Landscape Architecture

303-315-1023

[joern.langhorst@ucdenver.edu](mailto:joern.langhorst@ucdenver.edu)

Landscape recovery, remediation and design, urban design, research and design methodologies



### GREGORY SIMON

Associate Professor, Geography and Environmental Sciences

303-315-7529

[gregory.simon@ucdenver.edu](mailto:gregory.simon@ucdenver.edu)

Environmental policy and history, sustainable communities, urban ecology, vulnerability studies



### WES MARSHALL

Associate Professor, Civil Engineering

303-352-3741

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Road safety, active transportation, transit-oriented communities, parking, street networks



### ROCKY PIRO

Center for Sustainable Urbanism  
Director, Research Associate  
Professor

303-315-0013

[rocky.piro@ucdenver.edu](mailto:rocky.piro@ucdenver.edu)

Smart growth, regional planning, health and the built environment, social and environmental justice, citizen participation



# FACULTY AND STAFF

## PART-TIME FACULTY AND LECTURERS



### LILLY DJANIANTS

Lecturer

Senior City Planner - Urban Design, Denver Community Planning & Development

[lilly.djanants@denvergov.org](mailto:lilly.djanants@denvergov.org)

Urban design, master planning, architecture, urban development and TOD, neighborhood planning, design standards and guidelines



### MICHAEL HINKE

Lecturer

Coordinator, CU Denver Facility for Advanced Spatial Technology

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Geographic information systems, environmental and natural resources analysis, land use analysis



### KORKUT ONARAN

Assistant Professor Adjunct

Principal, Pel-Ona Architects and Urbanists

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Land use and environmental planning, urban design, growth management, historic preservation



### ANDREW RUTZ

Lecturer

Urban Design Project Manager, MIG

[andrewrrutz@gmail.com](mailto:andrewrrutz@gmail.com)

Community planning, urban design, transit-oriented development, neighborhood revitalization, streetscape/corridor design



### DON ELLIOTT

Lecturer

Director, Clarion Associates

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Land planning and zoning, growth management, international urban development issues and strategies



### EUGENE HOWARD

Lecturer

Associate City Planning, Denver Community Planning & Development

[eugene.howard@ucdenver.edu](mailto:eugene.howard@ucdenver.edu)

Citywide planning, neighborhood planning, transit-oriented development planning, branded placemaking



### PETER PARK

Associate Professor Adjunct

Director/Owner, Peter J. Park LLC

[peter.park@ucdenver.edu](mailto:peter.park@ucdenver.edu)

Urban design, urban highway removal, new urbanism, form-based codes



### BRAD SEGAL

Lecturer

President, Progressive Urban Management Associates

[brad@pumaworldhq.com](mailto:brad@pumaworldhq.com)

Downtown management, community and economic development, downtown issues, urban revitalization



### GRETEL FOLLINGSTAD

Lecturer

Owner, Terra Planning

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Resiliency planning, adaptive water planning, environmental planning, hazards planning



### YISHUEN LO

Lecturer

Landscape Designer, Livable Cities Studio

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Graphic design and visualization, emerging technologies



### JAMIE ROSKIE

Lecturer

Land Use Attorney, Former Director University of Georgia Land Use Clinic

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Land use regulation, urban development and policy, land conservation, affordable housing



### RYAN SOTIRAKIS

Lecturer

Urban Designer, Dig Studio

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Community planning, urban design, parks and public spaces, landscape architecture



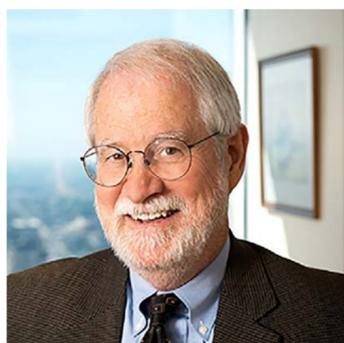
### CHRIS GEDDES

Lecturer

Associate, Design Workshop

[cgeddes@designworkshop.com](mailto:cgeddes@designworkshop.com)

Urban design, campus planning, parks and open space planning, site design



### GILBERT MCNEISH

Professor Adjunct

Land Use Attorney, Spencer Fane

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Land use, planning and zoning law



### ERIC ROSS

Lecturer

Owner, Five Points Geoplanning LLC

[eric.ross@ucdenver.edu](mailto:eric.ross@ucdenver.edu)

Geographic information systems, cartography, land use and policy analysis, urban morphology, planning consulting



### JOEL STARBUCK

Lecturer

Former Division Manager of Real Estate, King Soopers/City Market

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Commercial real estate development and investment

# FACULTY AND STAFF

## PART-TIME FACULTY AND LECTURERS



### SAM SUTER

Lecturer

Owner/Principal, Metta Urban Design

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Visualizations, graphic storytelling, project branding, urban design, form-based code, design standards and guidelines



### TAREQ WAFAlE

Lecturer

Director, Planning and Zoning Partnerships, Gridics

[twafaie@gridics.com](mailto:twafaie@gridics.com)

Land use and zoning, hazard mitigation, urban renewal



### KRISTA TROFKA

Lecturer

Owner, Trofka Communication Arts

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Economic development, real estate development, public-private partnerships, development feasibility



### DERRICK WEBB

Lecturer

Planner, Denver Regional Council of Governments

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Regional planning, long-range planning, small community and rural planning, planning for older adults, affordable housing, water law/planning



### STEVE TURNER

Historic Preservation Program Director, Assistant Professor—Clinical

Executive Director, History Colorado

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Historic preservation, architecture, preservation planning, federal historic preservation law



### MARILEE UTTER

Lecturer

President, Citiventure Associates LLC

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Real estate development, transit-oriented development, urban land use



# FACULTY AND STAFF

## COLLEGE STAFF WHO ASSIST MURP STUDENTS



### RACHEL BROWN

Director of Professional Engagement and Internships

303-315-1014

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Planning internships, career fair, professional development resources



### MIKE HARRING

Information Technology Manager

303-315-2883

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Computer lab, audio-visual technical support in classrooms



### ROXY NEW

Academic Advisor and Course Coordinator

303-315-0343

[roxy.new@ucdenver.edu](mailto:roxy.new@ucdenver.edu)

Student advising, academic policies, class scheduling, change of record forms



### DENISE WEBER

Assistant Director of Finance

303-315-2793

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Reimbursements and funding for student events and travel



### KERRI CLARKE

Operations Coordinator

303-315-1000

[kerri.clarke@ucdenver.edu](mailto:kerri.clarke@ucdenver.edu)

Reception desk, room scheduling, secure entry access, mailboxes, directories



### KHI JOHNSON

Director of Communications and Creative Content

303-315-1000

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College communications, marketing and branding, social media



### CONNOR RUMSEY

Finance and Human Resources Professional

303-315-0023

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Human resources for faculty, teaching assistants, research assistants, student employees



### LEO DARNELL

Assistant Dean of Academic Services and Extended Studies

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College-wide initiatives and events, continuing and professional education



### JESSE KUROIWA

Visual Resource Center Multi-Media Production Program Manager

303-315-2425

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Image library, portfolio photography, media equipment, cameras



### GABRIELLE SAWUSCH

Human Resources Director

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Human resources for faculty, teaching assistants, research assistants, student employees



### MATT GINES

Design Fabrication Lab Director

303-315-2071

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Design fabrication lab, building equipment and furniture



### LIZ MARSH

Academic Advisor

303-315-2536

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Scholarships and International studies



### JODI STOCK

Admissions Coordinator

303-315-0082

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Student admissions, recruitment

# CURRICULUM

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The total number of credit hours required to earn the Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree is 54. To reach the 54 credit hour total, students must earn 36 credits by completing and passing the required core courses. Students must then earn an additional 18 credits by completing and passing elective courses of their choice, with three (3) of those 18 credits consisting of an advanced skills/methods elective.

Across those 54 credits, students must also meet final course grade minimums and cumulative grade point average requirements, described in the Grading Policy section below, in order to earn the MURP degree. The required 54 credits may be reduced in some cases for students who meet the requirements for advanced standing or who have transfer credits (see the Advanced Standing Credit Waiver section).

The MURP program uses the University's standard 4.00 grading system:

A	4.00 points	B	3.00 points	C	2.00 points	D	1.00 points
A-	3.70 points	B-	2.70 points	C-	1.70 points	D-	0.70 points
B+	3.30 points	C+	2.30 points	D+	1.30 points	F	0.00 points

## GRADING POLICY

In order to receive the MURP degree, a student's cumulative grade point average (GPA) for all courses that count toward the required 54 credit hours must be 3.00 or higher. A student's cumulative GPA may drop below 3.00 during their time in the MURP program, but ultimately the student's cumulative GPA must be 3.00 or higher in order to graduate with the MURP degree. Students who fail to meet a 3.00 cumulative GPA will be put on probation. After two semesters on probation a student will be subject to suspension.

For all courses taken as part of the MURP program, a student must receive a final grade of C minus (C-) or higher in order for that course to count toward the MURP 54 credit hour requirement. A student receiving a final grade in a core course below C- must retake the course in order to graduate. It should be recognized that while students can get credit for courses where their grade is as low as a C-, each grade below a B (3.00) must be matched with a grade that is correspondingly higher than a B in another class to eventually meet the minimum 3.00 cumulative GPA threshold. As of the effective date of this policy, currently enrolled students who took a class under the previous grading policy and received a grade between C- and C+, thereby not obtaining credit for the class towards the degree, can now count that class towards the degree credit retroactively.



## ADVANCED STANDING CREDIT WAIVER

Students may receive advanced standing and waive up to nine (9) credits of MURP core or elective courses if they have previously completed graduate-level planning courses (minimum grade of B-) that substantially covered the equivalent MURP course material. An Advanced Standing Credit Waiver does not require a substitute course and does reduce the number of total credits required to receive the MURP degree.

To apply for an Advanced Standing Credit Waiver, complete the online Course Waiver Request Form. If you have any questions about the form, please contact Roxy New. To receive an Advanced Standing Credit Waiver for a MURP course, you must submit a syllabus for the previously completed graduate-level planning course and a copy of your transcripts showing that you received a grade of B- or better in the course.

All Advanced Standing Credit Waivers must be approved by the Department Chair or Associate Chair. The core courses that are not eligible for an Advanced Standing Credit Waiver are Planning Project Studio and Planning Capstone/Thesis. If you have any questions about an Advanced Standing Credit Waiver, contact Roxy New or your Planning faculty advisor.

## CORE COURSE SUBSTITUTION

Students may substitute a MURP core course with an elective course of their choosing when at least one of the following conditions has been met: 1.) The student has significant professional planning work experience equivalent to the core course being substituted; or 2.) The student has completed an undergraduate or graduate planning course (minimum grade of B-) that substantially covered the equivalent material of the core course being substituted.

A Core Course Substitution does not reduce the total number of credits required to receive the MURP degree, and no more than nine (9) credits of core courses may be substituted per student.

To apply for a Core Course Substitution, complete the online Course Waiver Request Form. If you have any questions about the form, please contact Roxy New. If you propose to substitute a core course based on having previously completed an equivalent planning class, you must submit a syllabus for the course and a copy of your transcripts (unofficial is fine) showing that you received a B- or better in the course. If your core course substitution request is based on substantial professional planning work experience, you must submit your resume and a thorough description of the relevant job position and duties.

All Core Course Substitutions must be approved by the Department Chair or Associate Chair. The core courses that are not eligible for substitution are Planning Project Studio and the Planning Capstone/Thesis requirement.

These statements describe the expectations associated with letter grades awarded for MURP program assignments and courses:

**“A” grade range:** Exceptional scholarship and superior work products that significantly exceed stated requirements in scope and/or quality

**“B” grade range:** Commendable scholarship and accomplished work products that somewhat exceed stated requirements in scope and/or quality

**“C” grade range:** Satisfactory scholarship and work products that almost meet stated requirements in scope and/or quality

**“D” grade range:** Inadequate scholarship and inferior work products that clearly fail to meet stated requirements in scope and/or quality

**“F” grade:** Unacceptable scholarship and work product

# CURRICULUM

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Table 1 lists the required core courses and the overall 54 credit hour requirement for earning the MURP degree. Students are required to take at least one 3-credit advanced skills/methods elective course as part of the 18 required credit hours of electives. Students may select from the list of approved advanced skills/methods electives shown at the bottom of Table 1. Or students may identify a course offered outside of the MURP program and request that it be approved as their advanced skills/methods elective by submitting the course name/number and syllabus to the Department Chair or Associate Chair at least one month prior to the start of the semester.

**TABLE 1: CORE COURSES AND TOTAL CREDIT HOUR REQUIREMENTS**

Course #	Core Course Name	Credits	Semester	Prerequisite	
URPL 5000	Planning History and Theory	3	Fall	None	
URPL 5010	Planning Methods	3	Fall	None	
URPL 5020	Planning Law and Institutions	3	Fall	None	
URPL 5030	The Planning Profession	3	Fall	None	
URPL 5040	Urban Sustainability	3	Spring	None	
URPL 5050	Urban Development	3	Spring	None	
URPL 5060	Planning Workshop	6	Spring	9 MURP credits (at least 6 core)	
URPL 6000	Planning Project Studio	6	Fall, Summer	Planning Workshop	
Student's choice of ONE of the following 6-credit courses:					
URPL 6900	Planning Capstone	6	Spring	Planning Project Studio	
URPL 6920/5	Planning Thesis A/B		Fall, Spring	Planning Project Studio	
<b>Core Courses Total</b>		<b>36</b>			
Regular Electives		15			
Advanced Skills/Methods Elective		3			
<b>Required Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>54</b>			
<b>APPROVED ADVANCED SKILLS/METHODS ELECTIVE COURSES (3 CREDITS EACH)</b>					
Course #	Course Name	Semester	Course #	Course Name	Semester
URPL 6250	GIS for Urban Planning	Fall	URPL 6210	Planning Engagement	Spring
URPL 6265	Visualization for Planning	Fall	URPL 6225	Urban Policy Analytics	Spring

## TYPICAL PATHS THROUGH THE PROGRAM

Generally, the 5000-series core courses should be completed first because they provide foundational knowledge, skills, and values that are important to successfully completing the 6000-series core and elective courses. While most electives are taken in the second year, students have the opportunity to take elective courses during their first year in the program. Table 2 shows the two most popular paths that MURP students follow to proceed through the program in two years. Path A on the left assumes the student takes Planning Project Studio during the summer semester at the end of Year 1. Path B on the right assumes the student takes Planning Project Studio during the fall semester at the start of Year 2 instead. Both paths assume the student chooses the Planning Capstone option rather than Planning Thesis. Students who choose to do a thesis should discuss with their faculty advisor the scheduling options for completing Planning Thesis over a two-semester timeframe. All students should meet with their faculty advisor to identify their best path for progressing through the MURP program.

**TABLE 2: TYPICAL PATHS FOR COMPLETING THE MURP PROGRAM IN TWO YEARS**

A: PROGRAM PATH WITH SUMMER STUDIO				
Semester	Course #	Course Name	Credits	Cumulative
1 – FALL	URPL 5000	Planning History and Theory	3	
	URPL 5010	Planning Methods	3	
	URPL 5030	The Planning Profession	3	
		Elective course	3	
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
1 – SPRING	URPL 5040	Urban Sustainability	3	
	URPL 5050	Urban Development	3	
	URPL 5060	Planning Workshop	6	
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>
1 – SUMMER	URPL 6000	Planning Project Studio	6	
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>6</b>	<b>30</b>
2 – FALL	URPL 5020	Planning Law and Institutions	3	
		Elective course ( x 3 )	9	
	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>12</b>
2 – SPRING	URPL 6900	Planning Capstone	6	
		Elective course ( x 2 )	6	
	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>12</b>

B: PROGRAM PATH WITHOUT SUMMER STUDIO				
Semester	Course #	Course Name	Credits	Cumulative
1 – FALL	URPL 5000	Planning History and Theory	3	
	URPL 5010	Planning Methods	3	
	URPL 5030	The Planning Profession	3	
		Elective course	3	
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
1 – SPRING	URPL 5040	Urban Sustainability	3	
	URPL 5050	Urban Development	3	
	URPL 5060	Planning Workshop	6	
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>
1 – SUMMER		Off		
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>
2 – FALL	URPL 6000	Planning Project Studio	6	
	URPL 5020	Planning Law and Institutions	3	
		Elective course ( x 2 )	6	
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>15</b>	<b>39</b>
2 – SPRING	URPL 6900	Planning Capstone	6	
		Elective course ( x 3 )	9	
	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>			<b>15</b>

# CURRICULUM

## CORE COURSES

Table 3 describes the MURP program's core courses, which provide students with a comprehensive survey of the planning field and the foundational knowledge, skills, and values important to the profession. The core courses have been carefully designed to fully comply with the Planning Accreditation Board's required educational outcomes.

TABLE 3: CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Course #	Course Name	Course Description
URPL 5000	Planning History and Theory	This course comprehensively reviews the major historical and theoretical developments in planning; the human aspects of planning as a social, political, and community-oriented process; public engagement; social justice; planning advocacy; and the future of planning.
URPL 5010	Planning Methods	This course focuses on the most commonly applied quantitative and qualitative methods used in planning; data organization and management principles; and various ways to collect, analyze, and communicate information as a fundamental component of the planning process.
URPL 5020	Planning Law and Institutions	This course covers the legal basis for planning; the evolution of planning law through a comprehensive review of landmark court decisions; and the types and hierarchies of governments, their powers and relationships, and how planning operates within various governmental contexts.
URPL 5030	The Planning Profession	This course offers a comprehensive survey of the planning profession; different types of planners and planning organizations; planning ethics; business aspects of planning; career development in planning; plus introductory instruction in GIS and Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop and InDesign.
URPL 5040	Urban Sustainability	This course covers the fundamentals of environmental planning; urban sustainability; history of cities and natural environments; natural systems/ecology; environmental regulation/policy; environmental justice; natural hazards and climate change; global dimensions of urban sustainability.
URPL 5050	Urban Development	This course explores how cities get built. Topics include an overview of the players, processes, politics and policies of real estate development; land division, entitlement, and regulation; site planning and development review; development finance; public infrastructure and finance.
URPL 5060	Planning Workshop	An introduction to the studio environment, this course provides students with hands-on knowledge and skills development in physical planning and design, the planning process, data collection and synthesis, plan making, and collaboration, plus introductory instruction in SketchUp.
URPL 6000	Planning Project Studio	The program's advanced studio, this course requires student teams to complete a substantial planning project for a real-world client. Sections are offered that feature a Denver/Urban, Colorado/Mountain, or International/Travel Abroad project experience.
Student's choice of ONE of the following 6-credit courses:		
URPL 6900	Planning Capstone	This course requires students to plan and complete an independent or small group project of their choice for a real-world client. After identifying their project topic, methodology, and work plan, students will receive instruction in project management and methodologies from the Capstone faculty. Planning Capstone concludes with the completion of the independent or small group project and the presentation of all final deliverables.
URPL 6920 URPL 6925	Planning Thesis A and B	This course requires students to plan and complete a research thesis of their choice. Planning Thesis Part A provides instruction for proper thesis research, analysis, and writing, while students develop a detailed work plan and begin their thesis research. Part B, taken the semester following Part A includes the completion of the research and the thesis document, and presentation of the findings before the student's thesis committee.



# CURRICULUM

## CORE STUDIOS

Planning Workshop (URPL 5060) and Planning Project Studio (URPL 6000) are the two core studio courses. These courses are a key part of the hands-on, real-world focus of the MURP program. This section provides more details on these unique core courses.

### PLANNING WORKSHOP

Planning Workshop is the introductory studio for MURP students offered each spring semester. Planning Workshop provides students an opportunity to address actual planning problems, issues, and processes; apply previously acquired knowledge and skills; and develop new knowledge and practical skills in an applied context.

Students will develop basic competence in accessing existing information, generating new information, and performing planning analysis and synthesis to inform and generate conceptual plans. Students will also learn the fundamentals of physical planning, understanding different geographic scales and site components, and how to illustrate physical plans and designs through various media and techniques. Through the Planning Workshop experience, students will develop an understanding of the relationship between planning theory and practice, and enhance their graphic, written, and oral communication capabilities.

Students will also receive introductory instruction in Trimble SketchUp, which complements the introductory instruction in GIS and Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign that students receive in The Planning Profession course. The integration and use of these common planning applications is a critical component of the Planning Workshop experience.

### PLANNING PROJECT STUDIO

Planning Project Studio is the MURP program’s advanced studio course. This studio requires students to work together as a “planning consultant team” to complete a single planning project or study from beginning to end for a real-world client. It is expected that students enrolled in Planning Project Studio will have already gained the fundamental planning knowledge, skills, and values from their experience in Planning Workshop and other MURP courses. Consequently, the emphasis in Planning Project Studio is on putting everything together into a complete real-world planning project.

The studio will emulate the typical planning consultant/client experience, including: refining the project scope and schedule with the client; establishing guiding principles and expected outcomes; conducting case studies and existing plans background research; gathering and analyzing existing conditions data; formulating alternative plan concepts; assessing alternative concepts through specific criteria; identifying and refining the preferred alternative; and preparing and presenting the final plan deliverables to the client. Emphasis is also placed on professionalism, project management, team-building and collaboration, client management, public involvement, and other aspects of the real-world planning consultant realm.

At least three sections of Planning Project Studio are offered each academic year: one (sometimes two) “Study Abroad” sections during the summer semester that travel to international locations (recent Study Abroad studios have gone to Greece and Spain); one “Colorado/Mountain” section during the summer semester that is anchored partly in Denver and partly in a mountain community (recent Colorado/Mountain studios have gone to Dillon and Leadville), and one (sometimes two) “Denver/Urban” sections during the fall semester that focus on issues in the city. These options provide students the opportunity to enroll in a Planning Project Studio section that is aligned with their interests and schedule. However, as each studio section is limited in size, there is no guarantee students will be able to enroll in their preferred section. A balloting process will be used when necessary.



# CURRICULUM

## PLANNING CAPSTONE

Planning Capstone is a six-credit, project-oriented, one-semester course that results in a substantial deliverable upon completion. The Capstone option is best suited for students who wish to pursue a career as a professional planner after graduation. Within the Planning Capstone option are two alternatives: Independent Project and Small-Group Project.

If a student chooses the Planning Capstone > Independent Project path, he or she will work individually to complete a significant planning project or study for a real-world client.

If a student chooses the Planning Capstone > Small-Group Project path, he or she must team up with one or two other students—forming a project team of no more than three people—to complete a significant planning project or study for a real-world client. However, each student must be individually responsible for a clearly defined component of the group project as each student will be graded independently for his or her work.

During the semester before enrolling in Planning Capstone, students will be required to: a.) determine if they will be working independently or as part of a small group, b.) identify their Capstone client and project topic, and c.) begin preparing a detailed project prospectus (work plan, schedule, methodology, and deliverables). Also during the semester before Capstone, students must attend a mandatory Capstone Orientation to receive instruction and guidance on project planning and management. Students must have a completed and approved project prospectus by the first week of their Capstone semester. Students may identify their own Planning Capstone client and project topic or they may select from a list of Capstone clients/projects that have been pre-arranged and approved by the MURP faculty.

During the Planning Capstone semester, students complete their project work while maintaining regular contact with their Capstone faculty advisor and client to ensure sufficient progress and work quality, as well as periodically meeting with other Capstone students to discuss common issues and challenges, share experiences, and receive continued instruction and guidance from the Capstone faculty on project management and methodologies. Also during the Capstone semester, students will attend several workshops that provide guidance on research and writing techniques and participate in Capstone Conversations, a special event where MURP alumni meet with Capstone students to provide professional perspectives on the issues the Capstone students are focused on and offer tips and ideas for successfully navigating the Capstone process. The Planning Capstone semester concludes with the submission of all deliverables and a formal presentation to the client.

For more information about Planning Capstone, students may request a copy of the Planning Capstone Handbook. Students will automatically receive a copy of the Handbook at the Capstone Orientation in the fall.

**The culminating component of the MURP curriculum is the Planning Capstone/ Planning Thesis requirement, which challenges students to utilize to the fullest extent the planning knowledge, skills, and values gained during their MURP program experience. Students must choose which option to select—Planning Capstone or Planning Thesis—based on their career goals, personal interests and aptitudes, and advice of their faculty advisor.**



## PLANNING THESIS

Planning Thesis comprises a pair of three-credit courses (A and B) taken over two semesters that together constitute a six-credit effort. The thesis option is most appropriate for outstanding MURP students who are considering pursuing a Ph.D. or a research-oriented career after graduation.

While the thesis should address an aspect of urban and regional planning, it may be qualitative or quantitative in design, and directed toward the discovery of new facts, the development of theory or frameworks, or an investigation of an existing body of knowledge. The thesis document usually includes an abstract, a literature review that delineates the problem of interest or a gap in existing knowledge, a statement of research objectives, an explanation of the research design and methods, a report of the results of the research, and a discussion of the findings and their implications for planning.

The thesis is undertaken with the guidance and approval of a three-person thesis committee, including a Thesis Advisor who must be a full-time member of the MURP faculty who holds a professional degree or Ph.D. Students interested in pursuing the thesis option must complete and submit the Planning Thesis Proposal to their intended Thesis Advisor. Students must have their project approved by their Thesis Advisor prior to the course drop deadline in the Planning Thesis A semester. If the proposal is not approved, or the student's prior academic performance is not deemed adequate for participation in the thesis option, the student would enroll in Planning Capstone instead. Once the Thesis Advisor approves the proposal, the student must enroll in the Planning Thesis course using a Special Processing Form that is signed by their Thesis Advisor and submitted to Roxy New.

During the Planning Thesis A (URPL 6920) semester, students identify their research question and study design, work on their literature review, and begin their research. If human subjects research is involved, e.g. through interviews, surveys, focus groups, etc., students should work with their Thesis Advisor to submit their application to the Colorado Multiple Institutions Review Board during Thesis A.

During the Planning Thesis B (URPL 6925) semester, students complete their research and write the bulk of the thesis. Throughout, thesis students will meet regularly with their committee members to ensure sufficient progress and work quality. To graduate, the completed thesis must be successfully defended in an Oral Examination before the Thesis Committee, formatted according to department guidelines, and submitted to the university by the official deadline.

Planning Thesis students should request a copy of the MURP Thesis Handbook from Jenny Steffel Johnson.

# CURRICULUM

## ELECTIVE COURSES OVERVIEW

Whereas the MURP core courses offer a broad survey of related planning topics to provide foundational knowledge, skills, and values, the elective courses offer a more intensive investigation into a diverse array of planning and design topics.

The MURP program's elective courses are presented in the following sections:

- Regularly Offered Electives
- Cross-Listed Electives
- Intermittently Offered Electives
- Special Topics Electives
- Out-of-Department Electives
- Independent Study
- For-Credit Internships
- Self-Directed Elective Curriculum

## REGULARLY OFFERED ELECTIVES

The MURP program provides students with a diverse set of elective courses that are offered on an annual basis. These electives are taught by a mix of full-time faculty, adjunct and visiting professors, and lecturers who work in planning and allied professions as practitioners.

On the following page, Table 4 lists the elective courses provided by the Department of Urban and Regional Planning that are offered once a year in the Fall semester, and Table 5 lists the elective courses provided by the department that are offered every Spring semester.

Please note: As shown in Table 4, URPL 6265 – Visualization for Planning is a regularly offered Fall semester course. However, based on student demand, this course may be offered in the Spring semester as well.

**Disclaimer:** All elective courses listed are subject to change given student interest, faculty availability, and other considerations. Students should consult with their academic advisor for information and guidance about the MURP program's elective courses.



# CURRICULUM

## REGULARLY OFFERED ELECTIVES

TABLE 4: ELECTIVES REGULARLY OFFERED - FALL SEMESTER

Course #	Course Name	Course Description
URPL 6200	Land Development Regulations	This course provides a comprehensive exploration of municipal/county land development regulations, including preliminary plats; general/final development plans; zoning; PUDs; variances; site plan/development review; land use regulators; regulatory processes.
URPL 6210	Planning Engagement	This course focuses on the role of public participation and engagement in urban and regional planning. Topics include planning advocacy; public meetings; public engagement techniques; diverse publics; controversial planning topics; mediation; and negotiation.
URPL 6250	GIS for Urban Planning	This course introduces students to the hardware, software, theory, and skills required to use a Geographical Information System (GIS). In this course, students will learn how to use GIS software to manage, analyze, map, and present spatial data to support the planning and design processes.
URPL 6265	Visualization for Planning	This course covers visual design theory and advanced instruction in Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, and InDesign to create compelling info-graphics, renderings, and reports, as well as advanced instruction in SketchUp and CityEngine to create 3D visualizations at multiple urban scales.
URPL 6405	Urban Housing	This course examines the realm of urban housing, including housing trends and patterns; housing markets (supply/demand, finance, demographics); housing problems (substandard quality, inequitable distribution, special needs, segregation/discrimination); and the role of the planner and the public/private sectors.
URPL 6455	Real Estate Development and Finance	The course offers a detailed analysis of the real estate development process, its relationship to the planning/design profession, and financial aspects of real estate development including measures of value, capitalization rates, capital budgeting, debt and equity markets and taxation.
URPL 6500	Environmental Planning and Management	This course provides a comprehensive investigation of environmental management topics, including natural hazards/disasters and mitigation planning; ecosystems; air/water quality; natural area conservation and management; habitat protection; and environmental planning organizations and their management policies.
URPL 6560	Transit, Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning	This course focuses on the unique planning issues and factors involved with transit, bicycle, and pedestrian modes of transportation, including planning fundamentals; routes and systems; modes and technologies, facilities and design requirements; funding; maintenance and operations; policies; and best practices.
URPL 6600	Regional Growth and Equity	This course provides an overview of public processes and institutions for planning housing, transportation, infrastructure and jobs at a regional scale, as well as analytic techniques to study worker and commodity flows, industrial clusters, commuting patterns, and other data regarding regional economies.
URPL 6645	Disaster and Climate Change Planning	This course introduces students to concepts and debates that shape disaster and climate change studies. Features case studies of disaster and climatic issues affecting Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region. Looks specifically at how planning can reduce risk and increase local resilience.

TABLE 5: ELECTIVES REGULARLY OFFERED - SPRING SEMESTER

Course #	Course Name	Course Description
URPL 6205	Plan Making	This course offers a broad overview of the various types of urban and regional plans and the specific processes involved in their creation, including comprehensive plans; rural and small town plans; corridor plans; small area plans; campus and institutional plans; special plans.
URPL 6225	Urban Policy Analytics	This course teaches students a wide array of quantitative analysis techniques to help answer the question: did the implemented policy have its intended effect? Students will use a variety of quantitative tools including spreadsheet analysis, online databases, and RStudio. Prerequisite: URPL 5010 - Planning Methods.
URPL 6260	Advanced Geospatial Methods	This course covers advanced techniques in GIS, including interpolation/geostatistics, 3D rendering, terrain/viewshed analysis, spatial autocorrelation detection, site selection/prioritization, model building/automation, geodatabase design, network analysis, hydrology/watershed analysis, and public data integration.
URPL 6350	Form and Formation of Cities	This course investigates the origins and types of human settlements; the history of cities and urbanization; urban morphology and the evolution of the built environment; urban form principles and theory; types of urbanisms, and the history of Denver's built environment and planning.
URPL 6355	Urban Redevelopment Strategies	This course focuses on the strategies used to help revitalize urban areas. Topics include urban infill development; TODs; adaptive reuse; historic preservation; design review; parking; public spaces; brownfields/grayfields redevelopment; culture/tourism; special districts; incentives/funding; and revitalization policies.
URPL 6365	Parks and Public Spaces	This course offers a focused look at the role of parks and public spaces in the development and activation of cities; their designs, qualities, and components; management /operations; funding; policies; equal access; role as community and economic development tool.
URPL 6400	Community Development	This course looks at community development and the issues planners face when working with local communities. Rooted in equity and social justice, the course explores the roles of social, physical, human and economic capital in community development. Students undertake a project with a local community.
URPL 6555	Transportation, Land Use and the Environment	This course investigates how transportation shapes regions, how people decide where to live and how to travel, and how these dynamics are central to sustainable development. Topics include smart growth, climate change mitigation, air quality, travel behavior, active transportation, and transit-oriented development.
URPL 6615	Small Town, Rural, and Resort Planning	This course investigates the unique characteristics, issues, and challenges associated with planning in small and/or rural communities, including agricultural issues and farmland conservation; growth management; rural economic development; and small downtown revitalization strategies.
URPL 6650	International Development Planning	This course covers the histories, debates, actors and approaches that shape planning in the developing world. Topics include development history/theory; decentralization/privatization; urban informality; planning models; uneven provision of basic services/infrastructure; land tenure; natural hazards and climate change.

# CURRICULUM

## CROSS-LISTED ELECTIVES

Cross-listed electives are courses that are regularly offered by other programs throughout the university that have been approved as MURP courses and assigned a permanent URPL course number. These courses focus on planning-related topics within disciplines such as urban design, historic preservation, landscape architecture, public administration, business, civil engineering, public health, and geography. Table 6 shows the current cross-listed courses available to MURP students. Because these courses are managed by other programs, the Planning faculty do not control the scheduling or content of these courses. Occasionally, cross-listed courses are discontinued by the program administering the course and/or new courses are identified by the Planning faculty for cross-listing. Questions about a cross-listed course should be directed to your academic advisor or to the course instructor.

**TABLE 6: CROSS-LISTED ELECTIVES**

Course #	Course Name	Course Description
URPL 6249	Project Management	This course introduces the knowledge and skills of Project Management. Emphasis is on the entire project life cycle, the project management process, and knowledge areas. Managerial aspects, quantitative tools and traditional techniques of Project Management will be covered. Cross-listed as BANA 6650.
URPL 6397	Design Policy	This course investigates the role of urban designers in shaping the built environment through physical intervention and policy development. Students review urban economic and real estate trends and assess zoning/land use regulations to understand impacts on built environment quality. Cross-listed as URBN 6642.
URPL 6398	Design Process	This course advances current urban design practice by exploring innovative methods of design analysis, production, representation, and communication. Community participation and civic engagement are integral components of seminar. Cross-listed with URBN 6641.
URPL 6399	Sustainable Urban Infrastructure	This course focuses on developing uniform vocabulary on sustainable infrastructure across science, technology, architecture and planning, public policy, and health and behavioral sciences. Students learn concepts, principles, and evaluation techniques for promoting sustainable urban infrastructure. Cross-listed as CVEN 5460.
URPL 6449	Urban Social Problems	This course examines local government from the perspective of sociology and group dynamics, including neighborhoods and community groups, class and race relations, community crime, social service issues, immigration, the underclass in American society, and related urban social problems. Cross-listed as PUAD 5628.
URPL 6499	Preservation Theory and Practice	This course explores the practice of historic preservation and its evolution within a specific policy context. This introductory course introduces basic American institutions and laws associated with preservation as well as standards, definitions, and practices associated with these. Cross-listed as HIPR 6010.
URPL 6547	Urban Ecology	This course covers ecological principles as applied to urban systems (lecture portion) and students will do an intensive study, presentation, and discussion on the urban ecological topic of their choosing (seminar portion). Cross-listed with LDAR 6655.
URPL 6598	Traffic Impact Assessment	This course covers transportation impact studies, methods to perform trip generation, distribution, and traffic assignment for impact analyses, and analysis of transportation impacts on residential communities, mode choice, regional business, travel times, noise, safety, parking and pedestrians. Cross-listed with CVEN 5612.

## INTERMITTENTLY OFFERED ELECTIVES

Table 7 lists the MURP courses that are offered on an intermittent basis, usually once every two years. When offered, they may be held in either the Fall or Spring semester, depending on faculty availability. Please consult with your academic advisor to learn when these courses may be offered next.

**TABLE 7: ELECTIVES OFFERED TYPICALLY ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS**

Course #	Course Name	Course Description
URPL 6300	Community and Environmental Health Planning	A place-based approach to understanding the social, economic, environmental, and political factors that influence individual and community health with a focus on reducing health disparities. Covers policies, practices, data, and methods for healthy communities planning.
URPL 6410	Social Justice in Planning	This course investigates the various issues encountered in planning relating to social justice, including conflict resolution; advocacy; environmental justice; social equity; culture and diversity; disadvantaged populations; public engagement techniques; affordability; equal access; and policies and impacts.
URPL 6550	Transportation Planning and Policy	This course examines policy issues in urban transportation planning: how system design and political/institutional contexts shape transportation decision-making; major modes of urban transportation; and the social, environmental, economic, energy, and health impacts of transportation systems.

## SPECIAL TOPICS ELECTIVES

Routinely, the MURP program offers electives that are not included in the catalog of planning classes that have been assigned a permanent URPL course number. These unique, one-time classes may cover any variety of planning topics or skills and may take the form of seminars, lecture courses, or studios, and may be offered in any semester.

Within the UCDAccess system, these special courses will appear under the heading of “URPL 6800 – Special Topics: Urban and Regional Planning” followed by a unique section number that provides details such as the course name, schedule, location, instructor, and course description.

Any Special Topics course listed under “URPL 6800 – Special Topics: Urban and Regional Planning” will count as an approved elective toward the MURP degree. Questions about Special Topics courses should be directed to your academic advisor or the course instructor.

## OUT-OF-DEPARTMENT ELECTIVES

Not counting cross-listed courses, MURP students may take up to two (2) electives from outside the Department of Urban and Regional Planning offered by other programs from throughout the University of Colorado system and apply those electives toward their MURP degree. These courses must be relevant to urban and regional planning and at the graduate level. Students may request an out-of-department course be approved as a MURP elective by submitting the course name/number and syllabus to the Department Chair or Associate Chair at least one month prior to the start of the semester.

# CURRICULUM

## INDEPENDENT STUDY

Independent Study is a student self-directed learning experience with faculty oversight, guidance, and evaluation. As an elective course, Independent Study offers students an important opportunity to engage in research or creative activity in an area of inquiry not offered through regular courses, or in greater depth than offered in regular courses. An Independent Study course should not duplicate courses that are traditionally offered at the university; rather, it is intended to be a truly independent exploration of a topic or a project of a special nature.

**Student Requirements:** Students who undertake Independent Study are expected to be self-motivated and largely self-directed. MURP students wishing to undertake an Independent Study must have a grade point average of 3.00 or greater in the MURP program. Students can apply a maximum of one three-credit Independent Study course towards their MURP degree. (However, under special circumstances, and with departmental approval, students may be able to take two Independent Study courses.)

**Faculty Requirements:** Students must secure a faculty advisor for their Independent Study course. The faculty member's expertise and availability should be appropriate for the topic of study and the student's learning objectives. Faculty members reserve the right to decline to be an Independent Study advisor. Only full-time Department of Urban and Regional Planning faculty members may officially serve as a MURP Independent Study advisor. Adjunct faculty members and faculty in other departments may serve as co-advisors, but the instructor of record (i.e., grader) must be a full-time MURP faculty member. Students are encouraged to consult with other faculty and/or professionals as part of their Independent Study, but the faculty Independent Study advisor is responsible for evaluating the project and providing the majority of advising.

**Project Guidelines:** An Independent Study project should have a focus within the field of Urban and Regional Planning, although it may be of an interdisciplinary nature. The Independent Study deliverables should be sufficient to evaluate the student's level of learning and mastery of the chosen topic. Independent Study will be graded with a letter grade and is subject to MURP, CAP, and CU Denver grading and academic policies. The project specifics are to be provided by the student in the Independent Study Proposal and approved by the student's Independent Study faculty advisor.

Students should expect to devote a minimum of nine hours per week during the fall or spring semester, and 18 hours per week during the summer semester, for a three-credit Independent Study course. Students are expected to meet periodically with their Independent Study faculty advisor throughout the semester, and the student and advisor should agree on project milestones and a meeting schedule.

**Enrollment Process:** To begin an Independent Study, students are responsible for developing a study proposal, approaching and gaining approval from the faculty member with whom they would like to work, completing the enrollment form and getting it signed and submitted, and registering for the Independent Study course. Specifically, the process includes the following steps:

- Prior to the semester in which the Independent Study is to be completed, the student drafts an Independent Study Proposal.
- Prior to the start of the semester, the student approaches and gains approval from a full-time MURP faculty member to be their Independent Study course advisor (note guidelines above).
- The student works with their faculty advisor to refine the Independent Study Proposal. The proposal must be completed and approved by the faculty advisor no later than the end of the first week of the semester.
- The student completes and signs the Special Processing Form, has it signed by their Independent Study faculty advisor, and turns it in to Roxy New no later than the end of the second week of the semester (the add/drop deadline).
- Student registers for the Independent Study course (URPL 6810) no later than the add/drop deadline.

## FOR-CREDIT INTERNSHIP

Internships are an important way the MURP program helps students achieve hands-on, experiential learning. The difference between an internship and a part-time job is that an internship is specifically intended to be a learning experience. Getting academic credit for an internship is not required, but doing so can be a rewarding part of a student's self-directed curriculum. Students earn 3 elective credits for successfully completing URPL 6805 – Planning Internship. More importantly, the coursework enables students to maximize the personal and professional development their internship affords.

- Internships may be paid or unpaid. We encourage employers to pay students; however, a student should not discount the value of an unpaid internship. Students who are in internships that earn academic credit are covered by the University's Workers' Compensation provisions.
- An internship that earns 3 hours of academic credit requires at least 135 hours of work during the semester (9 hours per week during the Fall or Spring semester; 17 hours per week during the Summer semester).
- A student cannot enroll for more than 3 credit hours of internship in any semester, and URPL 6805 may not be taken for less than 3 credit hours. A student can get credit for two different internships, but no more than 6 credit hours of internship may apply to the 54-credit degree requirement.
- Students may do an internship at any point in their MURP career, but it is recommended that students wait until after they have completed most of their core courses.
- Students may not get credit for an internship that was completed in the past, for prior work experience, volunteer activities, or life experience.

As internship opportunities are received from employers, they will be posted to Handshake. Students are strongly encouraged, however, not to rely solely on Handshake for finding internship leads, but to pursue internship opportunities on their own through networking with planning professionals and reaching out directly to planning-related organizations. To get credit for an internship, you must first talk with Jenny Steffel Johnson, the instructor of the Planning Internship course. Following your meeting with Jenny, you must complete the following three items:

- Required item #1 is to complete the Special Processing Form and get it signed by Jenny, who will give it to Roxy New, who will give you permission to enroll in URPL 6805. The Special Processing Form is available at MURPspace.
- Required item #2 is the Internship Contract. On this form you will list the factual information about your internship: contact information for you and your supervisor, job description, pay rate, etc. Part of the Internship Contract is item #3, the Internship Learning Agreement.
- Required item #3 is the Internship Learning Agreement. This document is written by you, but must be agreed to and signed by both your internship supervisor and Jenny (so multiple drafts may be necessary.) The Internship Learning Agreement must be finalized and signed within two weeks of the start of the internship course. The Learning Agreement, Guide, and Contract are all available at MURPspace.

The internship course consists of both professionally participating in the internship itself and completing weekly essays in response to assigned prompts. At the completion of the internship course, your internship supervisor will complete a final evaluation of your work and submit it to Jenny. For more information about MURP internships, see the Internship Guide located in the MURP Curriculum and Advising channel at MURPspace.

As noted above, getting academic credit for an internship is not required. Students may choose to obtain an internship—paid or unpaid—and not have it count towards their MURP degree. In that case, the internship is a private arrangement between the student and the employer that does not require any university notification or involvement. A not-for-credit internship can still provide valuable real-world exposure to the planning profession.

# CURRICULUM

## SELF-DIRECTED ELECTIVE CURRICULUM

Through our self-directed elective curriculum, students have the ability to craft a MURP degree suited to their career goals and personal interests. Students may choose any combination of elective courses, whether oriented towards a traditional planning field such as “Transportation Planning,” a customized emphasis on a unique planning niche, or a general survey of diverse planning topics (i.e. no specialization at all). Students are not required to identify or pursue any type of planning specialization unless they want to (specializations do not appear on transcripts). Ultimately, students may choose whichever combination of elective courses they desire.

However, for those students who may want to focus their electives on a specific aspect of planning, Table 8 identifies six common planning “Focus Areas” and a selection of MURP elective courses that would provide excellent coverage of each focus area. Again, these are not prescribed or required, just suggested combinations of electives related to each focus area for students who may be interested.

The most helpful resource for assisting students in choosing their self-directed path through the MURP program is the Planning faculty. Students should not hesitate to reach out to any faculty member for advice about which electives to take or any topic relating to the MURP program or careers in planning. For more information, see the Advising section on the Full-Time Faculty page.

### NOTES ABOUT THE COLUMNS IN TABLE 8

- **Focus Areas:** These focus areas were identified by the Planning faculty as six of the more common areas of specialization within planning. However, there are many other areas of specialization that exist within the realm of urban and regional planning. Students should feel free to define their own area of specialization if desired.
- **Introductory Electives:** Two electives have been suggested for each focus area that provide a good introduction to the focus topic.
- **Advanced Skills/Methods Electives:** Two advanced skills/methods electives have been suggested for each focus area that are supportive of the focus topic. However, only one advanced skills/methods elective is necessary to meet the requirement stated on page 9.
- **Specialized Electives:** Four electives have been suggested for each focus area that provide a deeper investigation into each focus topic. In addition to these four suggestions per focus area, URPL 6260 - Advanced Geospatial Methods would be an effective specialized elective under any focus area. Also, there may be Special Topics electives, Cross-Listed electives, or Out-of-Department electives that could be effective specialized electives under a focus area.

**TABLE 8: SUGGESTED ELECTIVES FOR COMMON PLANNING FOCUS AREAS**

Focus Area	Introductory Electives	Advanced Skills/Methods Electives	Specialized Electives
Transportation Planning	URPL 6555 - Transportation, Land Use, and Environment URPL 6560 - Transit, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Planning	URPL 6225 - Urban Policy Analytics URPL 6250 - GIS for Urban Planning	URPL 6260 - Advanced Geospatial Methods URPL 6399 - Intro to Sustainable Urban Infrastructure URPL 6550 - Transportation Planning and Policy URPL 6600 - Regional Growth and Equity
Housing and Community Development	URPL 6400 - Community Development URPL 6650 - International Development Planning	URPL 6210 - Planning Engagement URPL 6265 - Visualization for Planning	URPL 6355 - Urban Redevelopment Strategies URPL 6405 - Urban Housing URPL 6600 - Regional Growth and Equity URPL 6615 - Small Town, Rural, and Resort Planning
Land Development Planning	URPL 6200 - Land Development Regulations URPL 6355 - Urban Redevelopment Strategies	URPL 6210 - Planning Engagement URPL 6265 - Visualization for Planning	URPL 6350 - Form and Formation of Cities URPL 6400 - Community Development URPL 6405 - Urban Housing URPL 6455 - Real Estate Development Finance
Environmental Planning	URPL 6500 - Environmental Planning and Management URPL 6555 - Transportation, Land Use, and Environment	URPL 6225 - Urban Policy Analytics URPL 6250 - GIS for Urban Planning	URPL 6205 - Plan Making URPL 6365 - Parks and Public Spaces URPL 6615 - Small Town, Rural, and Resort Planning URPL 6645 - Disaster and Climate Change Planning
Physical Planning and Urban Design	URPL 6350 - Form and Formation of Cities URPL 6200 - Land Development Regulations	URPL 6210 - Planning Engagement URPL 6265 - Visualization for Planning	URPL 6365 - Parks and Public Spaces URPL 6397 - Design Policy URPL 6398 - Design Process URPL 6555 - Transportation, Land Use, and Environment
Healthy Communities Planning	URPL 6300 - Community/Environmental Health Planning URPL 6400 - Community Development	URPL 6225 - Urban Policy Analytics URPL 6250 - GIS for Urban Planning	URPL 6365 - Parks and Public Spaces URPL 6410 - Social Justice in Planning URPL 6560 - Transit, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Planning URPL 6645 - Disaster and Climate Change Planning

# CURRICULUM

## DUAL DEGREES / CONCURRENT DEGREES / CERTIFICATES

We believe that successful planning and city-building requires expertise, breadth, interdisciplinary understanding, and creativity. Our program emphasizes thinking outside traditional professional silos and we encourage students to explore the planning profession by following a self-directed path and developing expertise in the areas that matter most to them. In keeping with this spirit, the MURP program offers eight dual degree options and one concurrent degree option, described below. In order to pursue a dual or concurrent degree, you must be accepted into both programs separately. You may choose to apply to another program to pursue a dual or concurrent degree after you have entered the MURP program. Once admitted to a dual degree, you must complete the work for both degrees before you can graduate from either. Concurrent degrees may be awarded independently of each other. Pursuing a dual or concurrent degree allows a reduction in the number of credits required than you would need if you earned each degree separately, saving both time and money. The advising forms referenced in the sections below are available in the MURP Curriculum and Advising channel at [MURPspace](#).



### APPLIED GEOGRAPHY/GEOSPATIAL SCIENCES (MA-AGGS) + MURP DUAL DEGREE

The Master of Arts in Applied Geography and Geospatial Sciences (MA-AGGS), offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the MURP program focus on human-environment interactions and seek to train interdisciplinary researchers and practitioners. Balancing conservation and demands on the natural and built environments has led to a growing demand for trained professionals who can understand complex issues, collect and analyze relevant data, and develop and implement innovative policy and design solutions. The MA-AGGS program emphasizes geospatial science to address social and environmental issues while the MURP program focuses on the design and planning of the built environment and its impact on social and physical systems. This interdisciplinary approach enables students to integrate the views and tools from each field and prepare for careers such as transportation planning, environmental consulting, natural resource management, hazards/emergency management, urban/regional planning, health/human services, and tourism/recreation management.



### ARCHITECTURE (M ARCH) + MURP DUAL DEGREE

The Master of Architecture (MArch) is the College of Architecture and Planning's accredited professional degree for students intending to seek licensure as architects. The MArch program examines the interplay between architectural form and the complex cultural and technological context in which architects operate. CU Denver's architecture and urban planning programs share a focus on cross-disciplinary interdependence, research orientation, experiential learning, and real-world relevance. Planners and architects each proceed by asking critical questions that encompass environmental, economic, social, cultural, aesthetic and ethical concerns, then answer them using an appropriate method. By conceiving of architecture and urban planning as an interdisciplinary partnership at the heart of the city-building process, MArch/MURP dual degree students develop the skills to create holistic, healthy, sustainable environments. For information, view the MARCH + MURP Dual Degree Advising Form.



### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (MBA) + MURP DUAL DEGREE

The Masters of Business Administration (MBA) is offered by the CU Denver Business School. Obtaining these two degrees helps planners understand not only the process of planning within the public sector, but also private enterprise, and how to harness private initiatives as they plan land use, promote the economy, and maintain valued landscapes. At the same time, the dual degree will help business leaders understand how to place business decisions within the broad array of community interests and aspirations. Both programs emphasize active learning through the analysis of case studies and direct involvement in addressing both business and planning challenges within Denver. In an era in which development strategy must enlist the combined energies of the public and private sectors, the student who has these two degrees will have a distinct advantage. Above all, the dual degree program educates students in the practice of strategic planning in service to the community at large. For more information, view the MBA + MURP Dual Degree Advising Form.



### ENGINEERING – TRANSPORTATION (MENG) + MURP DUAL DEGREE

This dual degree program combines the Master of Engineering–Transportation Systems (MEng), offered by the College of Engineering, Design and Computing, with the MURP degree. Transportation is a key area of research and practice in both engineering and planning. As communities become increasingly aware of the connection between the built environment and health, sustainability, and access to opportunity, the transportation-land use nexus has become more important—and more complex. Solving transportation and quality of life challenges requires multi-disciplinary, innovative solutions. The interdisciplinary perspective of a dual degree enables graduates to bring the perspectives and tools from one profession into the other. The MEng + MURP dual degree prepares students for careers influencing the design, public policy and investment in transportation systems such as roadways, public transit, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, parking and intermodal linkages. For more information, view the MENG + MURP Dual Degree Advising Form.

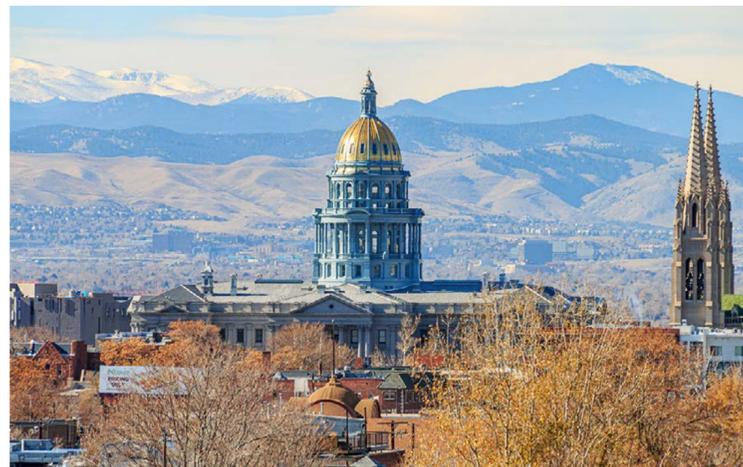
# CURRICULUM

## DUAL DEGREES / CONCURRENT DEGREES / CERTIFICATES



### HISTORIC PRESERVATION (MSHP) + MURP DUAL DEGREE

The Master of Science in Historic Preservation (MSHP) is offered by the College of Architecture and Planning. Historic preservation has become an integral part of many urban planning-related practices such as neighborhood planning, urban design, environmental permitting, real estate development, community development, public spaces and placemaking, and economic development. An increasing percentage of urban planning and design work is focused on infill projects, often in historic areas. And, it is widely recognized that reusing existing buildings is a more sustainable practice than tearing them down. The field of historic preservation encompasses architecture and planning, as well as cultural landscapes, project management, building technology, documentation, and representation. Students who can combine these skills with the breadth of urban and regional planning have a wide range of professional pathways from which to choose. For more information, view the MSHP + MURP Dual Degree Advising Form.



### LAW (JD) + MURP DUAL DEGREE

The law degree Juris Doctor (JD) is administered by the Law School at CU Boulder. The JD/MURP dual degree pairs two professions with complementary attentions. The focus of planning is public action centered on the natural and built environments, while the focus of law is the constitutional, statutory, and regulatory bases of the social order. Merged, these two fields enable dual degree holders to address issues at the interface of policy and law emphasizing the use of land and the management of the public lands and natural resources. Dual degree graduates will find abundant career opportunities in public-sector planning and administration at all levels of governance, and in the private practice of law and planning consulting. A student enrolled in the dual degree program may commence studies in either program, but is required by the Law School to take the first year of the JD curriculum as a unit exclusively in the Law School. For more information, view the JD + MURP Dual Degree Advising Form and the JD + MURP Dual Degree Memorandum of Understanding.



### LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE (MLA) + MURP DUAL DEGREE

The Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA) is the accredited professional degree for students intending to seek licensure as landscape architects. Landscape architects design physical spaces supporting healthy, ethical relationships between people, place, and resources while enhancing the inherent qualities of that place. Today, landscape architects are called upon to find design solutions that respond to the pressures of globalization, growth, heritage loss, and environmental degradation. These same concerns occupy urban and regional planners, who search for solutions through engaging communities, researching, analyzing qualitative and quantitative information, and creative planning and visioning. Students who pursue this dual degree will have the physical design and urban planning tools to connect people to place in ways that enhance well-being and environmental balance, foster community and equity, conserve and regenerate resources, and create places that hold value for current and future generations. For more information, view the MLA + MURP Dual Degree Advising Form.



### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA) + MURP DUAL DEGREE

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) is offered by the School of Public Affairs at CU Denver. Planners who obtain this dual degree will gain a broad appreciation for planning's place within the wider array of governmental functions at the local, regional, state and federal levels. Grounding planning in public administration will encourage a firmer appreciation for institutional arrangements and processes, and for the strategic management of the regulatory and fiscal means for the implementation of plans and policies. At the same time, grounding public administration in the material presence of places emphasizes and encourages the role of the natural and built environment in shaping development capacities, opportunities and outcomes. This dual degree allows public administrators to better document and direct the course of physical, economic, fiscal and policy change within communities. Graduates may pursue employment options in either field or a blend of the two. For more information, view the MPA + MURP Dual Degree Advising Form.

# CURRICULUM

## DUAL DEGREES / CONCURRENT DEGREES / CERTIFICATES



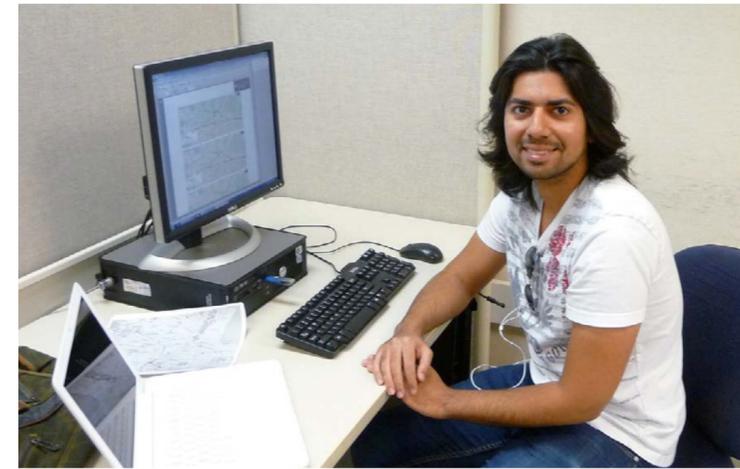
### PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH) + MURP DUAL DEGREE

The Master of Public Health (MPH) is the primary professional degree in the field of public health. It prepares students for a variety of public health careers: epidemiological and health services research, community needs assessment, environmental and occupational health, health policy, health promotion, and administration of public health programs. The CU Denver MURP/MPH dual degree arises from the commonalities of perspective and purpose shared by its two constituents. Each focuses on populations rather than individuals, and each works to proactively improve the well-being of those populations. A subset of public health addresses the health impacts caused by physical environments—which is the domain of urban and regional planning. Planners recognize that policies, infrastructures, and social and economic conditions contribute to environmental conditions and, thus, play a critical role in human health. For more information, view the MPH + MURP Dual Degree Advising Form.



### URBAN DESIGN (MUD) + MURP CONCURRENT DEGREE

The interdisciplinary Master of Urban Design (MUD) program addresses design issues at all scales, from the individual public space or site to the neighborhood, city, region, nation and world. Through studio and lecture courses, students become critical, reflective professionals with a deep understanding of urban design theory and practice. As the nexus of architecture, urban planning, and landscape architecture, urban design provides the conceptual and spatial framework for the design of cities. Planning students who complete this concurrent degree will gain the ability to produce cohesive and comprehensive statements about the preferential design of the built environment; employ practices that lead to conceptual, analytical and formal transformation of existing problems into preferred physical solutions; and convey ideas using verbal, visual and graphic communication techniques appropriate for a wide variety of professional, academic and layperson audiences.



### GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SCIENCE (GIS) CERTIFICATE

The College of Architecture and Planning's GIS certificate program is intended for motivated people with a strong interest in the application of GIS to the design and planning professions. It is targeted both at students currently enrolled in a University of Colorado degree program who wish to add a credential to their degree, and working professionals who do not wish to enroll as degree students, but who wish to pursue a certificate to improve their job skills and spatial understanding. Students who earn this Certificate exit the program with an understanding of GIS theory and concepts, technical mastery of GIS methods and familiarity with remote sensing, knowledge of data interoperability, and specialized skills in geospatial methods related to the design and planning professions, including rendering and visualizations, infrastructure and transportation network analysis, cadastral mapping, site selection and analysis, geodesign, and many others.

## PROGRAM LINKS

Use the links below to visit the websites for the various University of Colorado programs that have a dual degree, concurrent degree, or certificate arrangements with the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program.

 **APPLIED GEOGRAPHY / GEOSPATIAL SCIENCES**  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
[Program Website](#)

 **ARCHITECTURE**  
College of Architecture and Planning  
[Program Website](#)

 **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**  
Business School  
[Program Website](#)

 **ENGINEERING – TRANSPORTATION**  
College of Engineering, Design and Computing  
[Program Website](#)

 **HISTORIC PRESERVATION**  
College of Architecture and Planning  
[Program Website](#)

 **LAW**  
CU Boulder Law School  
[Program Website](#)

 **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**  
College of Architecture and Planning  
[Program Website](#)

 **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**  
School of Public Affairs  
[Program Website](#)

 **PUBLIC HEALTH**  
Colorado School of Public Health  
[Program Website](#)

 **URBAN DESIGN**  
College of Architecture and Planning  
[Program Website](#)

 **GIS CERTIFICATE**  
College of Architecture and Planning  
[Certificate Website](#)

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

### WTS (WOMEN'S TRANSPORTATION SEMINAR) - CU DENVER CHAPTER

WTS (Women's Transportation Seminar) is a multidisciplinary organization that is dedicated to the advancement of women in the transportation industry. CU Denver's WTS Student Chapter is about bringing people together—all genders and disciplines—to elevate women in leadership and advance transportation equity and innovation. The goal of WTS is to provide the following opportunities to students throughout the year:

- Network with transportation professionals
- Encourage involvement in current transportation affairs in Denver
- Provide opportunities outside the classroom to increase knowledge through programming events
- Participate in mentoring and job shadowing opportunities
- Engage with fellow students in social and service activities

We welcome all students (both women and men) to join WTS for educational and social events, community service projects, and other activities related to transportation careers. For more information, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/wtsucd> or the WTS channel at MURPspace.

### PLANNERS NETWORK - CU DENVER CHAPTER

Planners Network is an association of professionals, activists, academics, and students involved in physical, social, economic, and environmental planning in urban and rural areas, who promote fundamental change in our political and economic systems.

Planners Network believes that planning should be a tool for allocating resources and developing the environment to eliminate the great inequalities of wealth and power in our society, rather than to maintain and justify the status quo. We are committed to opposing racial, economic, and environmental injustice and discrimination by gender and sexual orientation. We believe that planning should be used to assure adequate food, clothing, housing, medical care, jobs, safe working conditions, and a healthy environment. Planners Network advocates public responsibility for meeting these needs, because the private market has proven incapable of doing so.

Planners Network seeks to be an effective political and social force, working with other progressive organizations to inform public opinion and public policy and to provide assistance to those seeking to understand, control, and change the forces which affect their lives.

Visit the Planners Network Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PlannersNetworkDenver>

### AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION - STUDENT CHAPTER (APAS)

APAS is the CU Denver student chapter of the American Planning Association, which promotes the involvement of student planners in local, regional, and national planning activities and provides a mechanism through which students can interact with planning professionals and faculty, address common concerns, and receive support in their endeavors in the field of planning. APAS's goals are:

- Connect students in the MURP program with the Colorado APA chapter and the national APA organization
- Promote the involvement of student planners in the affairs and activities of the American Planning Association
- Provide the mechanism whereby student planners can influence the development of the planning profession
- Serve as a social network for planning students and APA members
- Voice the needs of MURP students to Planning faculty and foster strong communication among faculty and students
- Raise funds to sponsor as many students as possible to be able to attend the state and national APA conferences
- Facilitate a mentorship program
- Hold monthly meetings with students to maintain communication and to encourage proactive suggestions and involvement

APAS hosts educational events such as "Breakfast with Professionals" to allow students an opportunity to engage professional planners in an informal setting and we also engage in fund-raising activities to generate revenue in order to put on additional events or provide learning opportunities for students and professional alike.

Each spring and fall, APAS hosts picnics for students to connect with one another outside of the classroom setting. All MURP students are welcome to participate in APAS; there's no official "joining" necessary and there are no dues or specific commitments required.

For more information, visit APAS's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ucdenverapas/> or the APAS channel at MURPspace.



# EXTRA-CURRICULAR

## CAP LECTURE SERIES/LUNCH FORUMS

The College puts on an exciting lecture series each year, bringing ground-breaking practitioners and academics to the campus to talk about their work and the future of our disciplines with a focus on a particular theme. Many of these speakers are from the planning and design fields. Check the CAP website and the bulletin boards around the building for lecture series event information.

Planning faculty and students regularly organize lunchtime forums to foster conversation, debate, and learning about current issues that we face in the region and in the planning profession. The aim of the lunchtime forums is to contribute to building a community of practice that includes students, faculty, professionals, local organizations, and community residents. Keep an eye out for email messages and social media posts for these lunchtime events!

## MURP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EVENTS

The CU Denver [MURP Alumni Association](#) (MURPAA), whose mission is to “further the enduring educational interests, social diversity, professional development, and charitable support of CU Denver MURP students, alumni, and the communities they serve,” provides opportunities for planning students to engage with MURP alumni through a variety of meetings and events. MURPAA activities range from networking receptions and happy hours to educational events to the annual [Distinguished Lecture and Award](#) program.

## APA COLORADO EVENTS

In addition to its big [annual conference](#) (which many MURP students attend), the [Colorado chapter](#) of the American Planning Association also holds a variety of events and meetings open to CU Denver MURP students throughout the year. The APA-Colorado [Events Calendar](#) is a good place to find out what planning-related activities are occurring throughout the state. Additionally, the Emerging Planning Professionals (EPP) committee of APA-Colorado (for planners who have been in the field eight years or less) holds [professional and social activities](#) throughout the year.

## CU DENVER EVENTS

The University maintains a [Campus Happenings page](#) where a variety of activities open to all CU Denver students are publicized. During the fall and spring semesters, CU Denver students automatically receive the university's weekly e-newsletter with information on student events and activities.

## SUGGESTED SUMMER READING

The Planning faculty have compiled the following short list of books and online articles that current or prospective MURP students should consider reading. For more reading suggestions, don't hesitate to reach out to one of the Planning faculty.

### ONLINE READING RESOURCES

- [Ann Forsyth's List of "Plans You Should Know"](#)
- [Ann Forsyth's "Summer Readings that Help You Think"](#)
- [Ann Forsyth's "Summer Reading About Planning"](#)
- [Ann Forsyth's Blog](#)
- [APA Knowledge Center](#)
- [APA 100 Essential Books of Planning](#)

### RECOMMENDED PLANNING BOOKS (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

- The Death and Life of Great American Cities, Jane Jacobs
- Getting What You Came For, Robert Peters
- Building Suburbia, Dolores Hayden
- The Urban Villagers, Herbert Gans
- City of Quartz, Mike Davis
- American Apartheid, Douglas Massey and Nancy Denton
- The Walkable City, Jeff Speck
- Wrestling with Moses, Anthony Flint
- Urban Fortunes, John Logan and Harvey Molotch
- Nature's Metropolis, Bill Cronon
- The Production of Space, Henri Lefebvre
- Silent Spring, Rachel Carson
- A Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold
- Cadillac Desert, Mark Reisner
- The Image of the City, Kevin Lynch
- Human Transit, Jarrett Walker



# EMPLOYMENT

## TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Teaching assistants help professors prepare and manage course materials, grade student work, and lead discussion sessions. Teaching assistants typically work 5-10 hours per week. To be qualified as a teaching assistant, the student needs to have taken the course, mastered the material, and have skill and enthusiasm for training fellow students.

Students who are interested in teaching assistantships should express their interest to their course instructor, and discuss opportunities with the Department Chair.

## RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Research assistants help professors with research, and the specific activities can include data collection and entry, reviewing literature, conducting analysis and fieldwork, statistical programming, writing and editing manuscripts, and presenting research findings. The appointments carry a workload from about 5-20 hours per week.

Qualifications for research assistantships include academic merit, interest and enthusiasm for doing research, and any specific skill sets required for the project. Students who are interested in a research assistantship should discuss opportunities with their advisor and/or the Department Chair. The availability and nature of research assistantships depends on current faculty work and interests.



Handshake is the university platform to discover jobs and internships, register for events, schedule appointments, and find career resources available to all CU Denver students and alumni.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As a complement to the robust academic programming in the MURP program, students benefit from the practical experience gained in a professional work environment. CAP's [Professional Development and Internships office](#) provides support to all students in connecting to the practice community and developing the skills and materials necessary to secure employment and internships. Additionally the University's [Career Center](#) offers assistance in career development. During your time in the MURP program you'll have access to the following activities and services:

- CAP Career Fair: Over 65 employers attended the 2020 Career Fair. The event included networking sessions, panel discussions and one-on-one interviews.
- [Handshake](#): MURP students and alumni have access to Handshake, an online job board, where employers post available positions. Through Handshake, students will have access to positions in Metro Denver, Colorado and nationwide. Sign up for Handshake [here](#).
- [Mentorship Program](#): Students can get matched with a professional mentor who can offer insight and guidance on their field of study. Mentorship is also a valuable way to begin building your professional network.
- Skills Training: CAP and the CU Denver Career Center collaborate to offer targeted trainings on resumes, cover letters, networking and interviewing.
- Portfolio Trainings: For students interested in developing a professional portfolio, CAP offers trainings and review sessions to assist in the creation of printed and/or digital portfolios.
- Professional Presentations: CAP organizes panel discussions and talks by professionals, including alumni, to support students in their transition from school to employment.
- Firm Tours: CAP sponsors tours with local firms that work in the areas of Planning, Architecture and Landscape Architecture.
- Individual Support: The Director of Professional Development and Internships works with students on an individual basis to support them in their career search.

For more information about professional development services, please contact Rachel Brown, CAP Director of Professional Development and Internships at [rachel.brown@ucdenver.edu](mailto:rachel.brown@ucdenver.edu).

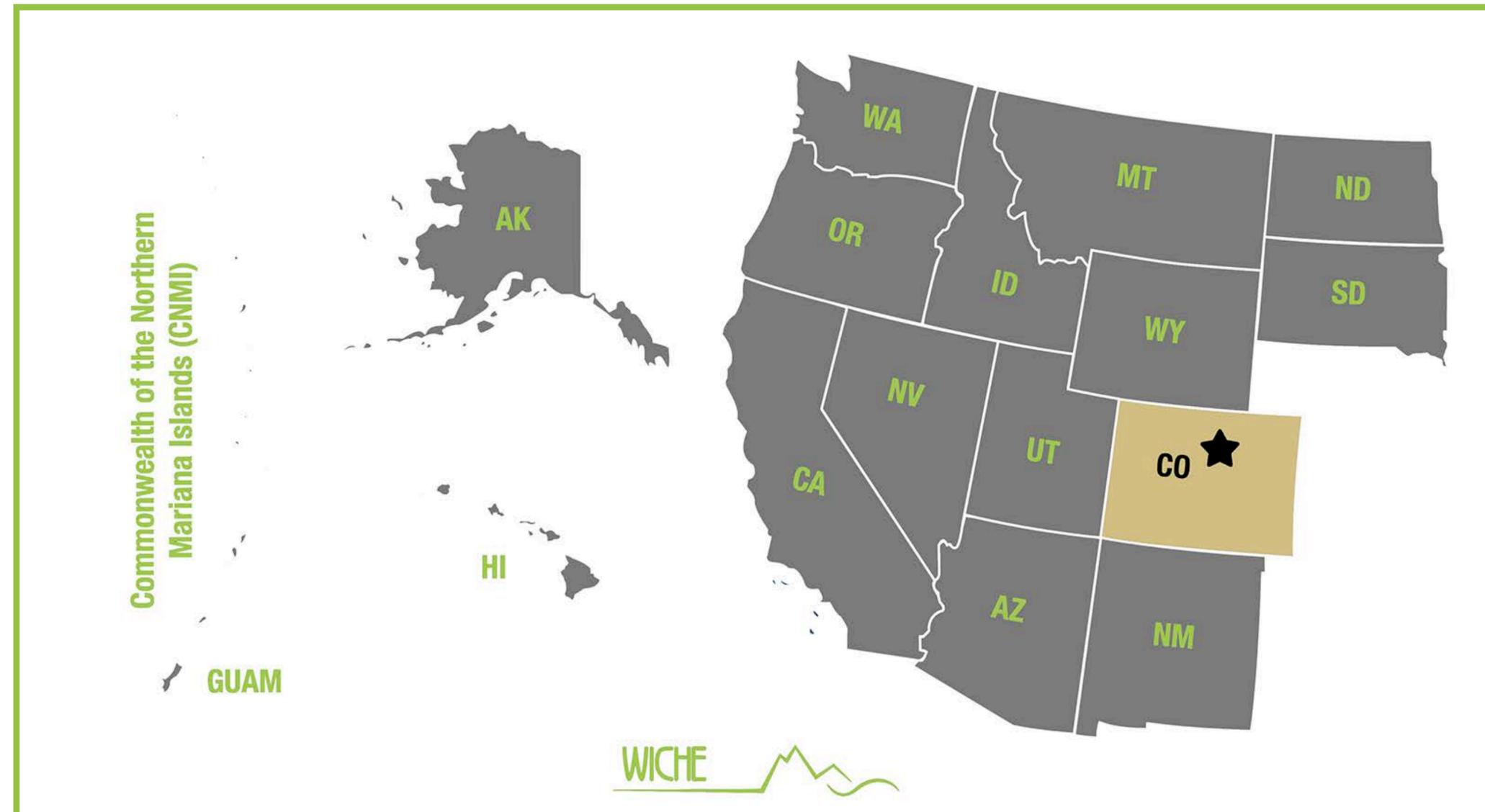


# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

## WICHE – WRGP

WICHE stands for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, a regional organization that helps higher education systems in 17 western US states and territories, including Colorado. WRGP stands for the [Western Regional Graduate Program](#), which is coordinated by WICHE. The WRGP is a tuition-reciprocity program that allows graduate students who live in one of the WICHE states or territories to enroll in select high-quality, distinctive graduate programs located outside of their home state and pay the in-state resident tuition rate, resulting in substantial savings!

The CU Denver Master of Urban and Regional Planning program is a qualified WICHE-WRGP program—the only graduate urban planning program in the Rocky Mountain region that participates in the WICHE-WRGP program. Therefore, anyone living in a WICHE state or territory can apply to the CU Denver MURP program as a WICHE-WRGP applicant and, if accepted into the MURP program, pay Colorado in-state resident tuition. For more information, please visit the university's [WICHE-WRGP web page](#).



## FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

For information about financial aid, begin at the CU Denver Office of Financial Aid [website](#). There you will find resources about the different types of financial aid available, financial aid FAQs, links to other helpful websites, and a lot more.

Scholarships are awarded on the basis of merit, academic achievement, financial need, or a combination of the three. Financial need is rarely the primary factor considered, but it is often used to make a decision among equally qualified finalists. The eligibility criteria for each scholarship depend on the values or goals of the group offering the scholarship. While you do not have to be admitted to the College in order to apply for financial aid or scholarships, you must be admitted at the time scholarship decisions are made to be considered. For more information, visit the College's [scholarships website](#).

The [CU Denver Scholarship Resource Office](#) provides assistance and support to students applying for institutional, state, and national scholarships. Located in the Tivoli Student Union, Room 259. phone: 303-352-3608, email: [scholarship@ucdenver.edu](mailto:scholarship@ucdenver.edu). Also, College Academic Advisor Liz Marsh ([elizabeth.j.marsh@ucdenver.edu](mailto:elizabeth.j.marsh@ucdenver.edu)) can assist students with scholarship information.

## IN-STATE RESIDENCY

After one year of Colorado residency, students may be eligible for in-state tuition. Please visit the Registrar's [residency page](#) for more information on how to establish residency. Domestic students who wish to establish Colorado residency should obtain a Colorado driver's license or ID card and register their car in Colorado as soon as possible, ideally before the first day of classes. However, just registering a car and obtaining a Colorado ID is not sufficient to establish residency.

To learn everything you need to know about establishing Colorado residency, please make sure you carefully review the information available on the Registrar's web page linked to above, and follow up with them if you have any questions. It's important to accurately establish your residency because it impacts students in a number of ways.

**The University of Colorado Denver's Master of Urban and Regional Planning program is a qualified WICHE-WRGP program—the only graduate urban planning program in the Rocky Mountain region that offers this opportunity!**

# POLICIES

## CAP STATEMENT OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The College of Architecture and Planning mission is to ignite evolution that enriches places for people and the planet. Our three core values are RESPECT, ENGAGE, and EVOLVE.

### RESPECT

We respect and value the unique experiences, traditions, and perspectives of each person, profession, community, and place.

Through our curricular and co-curricular activities, we tap into the inherent gifts of each one, and thereby build upon their respective strengths, nesting critical thinking inside appreciative thinking. Respect is the bedrock and foundation for ENGAGE and EVOLVE.

The global is here. One hundred and forty-five languages are spoken in the local school district and seven percent of CU Denver students arrive directly from other countries. Recognizing this range of cultural diversity, we benefit from a rich global perspective and experience right here, while also fanning out to the region and the world through community-based learning and research, learning abroad, and living across the globe.

We shift the language from “diversity,” which categorizes people into groups and generates divisions among them (as well as stereotypes and tokenism) to “inclusion,” which regards each person as different from others while also part of a shared humanity. Diversity can lead to divisiveness as well as (ironically) homogenization, while inclusion brings us together in a way that honors, celebrates, and benefits from our unique gifts.

### ENGAGE

We learn through doing and co-creating with our classmates, colleagues, and the larger community.

CU Denver is an intellectual, creative, social, and economic hub in one of the most rapidly growing urban centers of the US. By thoroughly embedding our activities—teaching, research, and service—

into the larger community, responsively as well as proactively, we strengthen all of these activities while contributing to improve the life quality, environmental sustainability, and economic vitality of the region. Lessons learned can then be applied beyond the region, having a global impact.

To best achieve this, students engage in experiential learning (how we teach: learning by doing), offering hands-on experience and leadership opportunities—on campus, in the community, in other regions of the US, and abroad—and benefit from coordinated/integrated curricula (what we teach).

*Tell me and I forget. Show me and I may remember. Involve me and I understand.*

Through hands-on and collaborative learning, students develop empathy along with relationship-building skills. Combining these with recognizing and valuing the inherent gifts of each person (RESPECT), including ourselves, cultivates “practical wisdom” (or phronesis).

### EVOLVE

We ignite evolution that enriches places for people and the planet.

Through transmitting knowledge and skills while supporting the growth and development of each person and our various disciplines and professions (through RESPECT and ENGAGE), the College of Architecture and Planning fuels innovation that contributes to the evolution of our civilization and the places we reside.

In sum, we prepare students to become professionals who, well-grounded in their respective areas of expertise, can work effectively with others to improve a rapidly changing world. Their innovations become part of the expertise of the future, upon which others will add new innovations. And the upward spiral continues.

# POLICIES

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities should be accommodated in all classes. The University's Disability Resources and Services Office determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability, please contact the Disability Services office and ask them to submit a letter describing your needs to each of your course instructors by the second week of the semester. Also, provide a copy of the letter to Roxy New for assistance in case of safety or fire emergency. For information, contact the Office of Disability Resources and Services, located at North Classroom 2514, Phone: 303-556-3450 - TTY 303-556-4766, Email: [disabilityresources@ucdenver.edu](mailto:disabilityresources@ucdenver.edu), or visit the Disability Resources and Services Office [website](#).

## STUDENT PRIVACY

Student privacy requirements are delineated in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. FERPA sets guidelines for higher education institutions that protect students' rights with respect to their educational records and other personally identifiable information. Violations of student rights can lead to serious consequences, such as lawsuits and/or withholding of federal funds to the University.

Circulation or posting of class/grade rosters that display students' names and ID numbers is a FERPA violation. Faculty may display a roster of students' names in a section of a course on a protected website or slide that is available to students in that section only, but may not create a public posting identifying students enrolled in a section of a course. Faculty must collect assignments directly from students and return graded assignments directly to students. Staff may not be used to collect or return assignments. Assignments may not be left in boxes outside of offices or in the mail room. Staff will not receive or return student assignments.

FERPA does not allow any public posting of student information with any part of the name, student identification number, or any other personally identifiable information. Students' grades may be posted without written permission, if they are not posted in a personally identifiable manner.

FERPA Guidelines can be found at the University's [FERPA web page](#).

## POLICY RESOURCES

The CU Denver Graduate School website is an excellent resource for important information, policies, procedures, and regulations related to all graduate students at CU Denver. Unless stated otherwise, the College of Architecture and Planning and the MURP program follow the policies outlined by the Graduate School. Information is available at the Graduate School's [resources web page](#).

## GETTING AN "INCOMPLETE"

To receive a grade of "Incomplete" in a course, the faculty member teaching the course and the student must together fill out an Incomplete Grade Report that will be kept in the student's academic file. The report will outline what work the student needs to complete in order to receive a grade and the timeline in which the student needs to complete the work. The form is available from Roxy New.

## GRADUATION

During your last semester in the MURP program, you must apply to graduate. The deadline to apply for graduation is the Census Date of your last semester. You can apply online through your student center in UCDAccess. Once you have applied for graduation you will receive information about registering for the Commencement ceremony. If you have any questions about the process please contact Roxy New.

## ACCREDITATION

The Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) accredits university programs in North America leading to bachelor's and master's degrees in planning. PAB standards are developed with input from the public and sponsoring organizations: the American Planning Association (APA); APA's American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP); and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP). The Master of Urban and Regional Planning program at the University of Colorado Denver is fully accredited through December 31, 2023.



# CAMPUS RESOURCES

## AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENT SERVICES

The office provides access and educational opportunities to American Indian students through academic advising, scholarship information, cultural programs, advocacy, student organization sponsorship and other supportive services tailored to the specific needs of the students. Located in Student Commons Room 2007-C. Phone: (303) 315-1882.

<http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/odi/CII/AISS/Pages/default.aspx>

## ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENT SERVICES

The office provides academic advising, scholarship information, cultural programs, advocacy, resource referral, student organization sponsorship and other supportive services tailored to the specific needs of Asian American students. Located in Student Commons Room 2007-E. Phone: (303) 315-1879. <http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/odi/CII/AASS/Pages/default.aspx>

## BLACK STUDENT SERVICES

In an effort to promote and maintain quality higher education for students of African descent, the office assists undergraduate and graduate students in all phases of their educational career through admissions services, academic counseling and peer support. Located in Student Commons Room 2007-F. Phone: (303) 315-1881.

<http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/odi/CII/BSS/Pages/default.aspx>

## CAREER CENTER

Offers a full array of services to prepare students for the transition from school to career. Graduate students are welcome and encouraged to utilize these resources. Located at Tivoli Student Union Suite 267. Phone: (303) 315-7315. <https://www1.ucdenver.edu/services/career-center>

## CARE TEAM

The Campus Assessment, Response & Evaluation (CARE) Team addresses the health and safety needs of students. The team assess whether individuals pose a risk to themselves or others and to intervene when necessary, and more generally, to identify and provide assistance to those in need. The CARE team takes a preventative approach to risk assessment by offering resources, referrals, and support to both the concerning individual and those impacted by their behavior. Phone: (303) 315-7306. <http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/care/Pages/default.aspx>

## CHILD CARE—AURARIA EARLY LEARNING CENTER

The Auraria Early Learning Center provides high-quality early childhood care and educational programs to children 12 months through 8 years old. The programs are utilized by the children of students, staff, faculty working on the Auraria Campus. Located at 950 9th Street Park. Phone: 303-556-3188. <https://www.ahec.edu/services-departments/early-learning-center>

## DISABILITY RESOURCES AND SERVICES

The Office of Disability Resources and Services produces assistance for accommodations to provide equal opportunities to foster the personal growth and development of students with disabilities. Located in Student Commons Room 2116. Phone: (303) 315-3510. <http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/resources/disability-resources-services/Pages/disability-resources-services.aspx>

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES

The International Student and Scholar Services office offers immigration services, programming and advising to enhance the experiences of international students. Location: 1380 Lawrence Suite 932. Phone: (303) 315-2230.

<http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/InternationalPrograms/OIA/ISSS/Pages/default.aspx>

## LATINX STUDENT SERVICES

The mission of Latin@ Student Services is to provide an inclusive environment that supports the intersectional experiences, diverse cultures and educational goals of Latin@ students at CU Denver. Located in Student Commons 2007-H. Phone: (303) 315-1878.

<http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/odi/CII/LSS/Pages/default.aspx>

## LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER

Promotes student success, retention, and graduation and is available to graduate students. Services include tutoring, supplemental instructions study skills workshops, and ESL support. Location: Student Commons Room 2105. Phone: (303) 315-3531.

<http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/LRC/OurServices/Pages/default.aspx>

## LGBTQ STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER

Open to all students as a resource for exploring sexual orientation/gender identification. Located in Tivoli Room 213. Phone: (303) 615-0515.

<http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/glbts/services/Pages/default.aspx>

## OFFICE OF EQUITY

Provides integrated assistance for complaints of protected characteristic harassment and/or discrimination or sexual misconduct. Location: Lawrence Street Center, 12th Floor. Phone: (303) 315-2567. Email: [equity@ucdenver.edu](mailto:equity@ucdenver.edu). <https://equity.ucdenver.edu/>

## OMBUDS OFFICE

Assists students in resolving CU Denver conflicts, complaints, and disputes. Services are free and confidential. Examples of concerns may include: the actions of faculty, staff, or other students; denials of petitions; harassment of any kind; administrative decisions; grading disputes. Location: 1380 Lawrence Suite 1003. Phone: (303) 315-0046. <https://www1.ucdenver.edu/offices/ombudsoffice>

## PHOENIX CENTER AT AURARIA

The Phoenix Center provides confidential help, education, and services for survivors of interpersonal violence, and their friends and family. All services are confidential. Phone: (303) 556-CALL (2255). <https://www.thepca.org/>

## STUDENT AND COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER

Students receive up to 10 counseling sessions at no cost per year as part of student fees. Make an appointment or simply walk in. All information is confidential (except cases of abuse or neglect of children, harm to self or others, or when reporting is required by law). Location: Tivoli Suite 454. Phone: (303) 315-7270. <http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/counseling-center/Pages/default.aspx>

## STUDENT CONDUCT AND COMMUNITY STANDARDS

Serves as a resource to meet the developmental and educational needs of students related to community expectations, civility and respect for self and others through conflict management and resolution, and responding to inappropriate and threatening behaviors. Location: Tivoli Suite 309. Phone: (303) 315-7311. <http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/standards/Pages/default.aspx>

## VETERAN AND MILITARY STUDENT SERVICES

An initial contact point for eligible veterans and dependent students attending CU Denver, providing a variety of programming, support and services. Location: Tivoli Suite 124. Phone: (303) 315-7300. <http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/Veteran/Pages/vmsshome.aspx>

## WOMEN AND GENDER CENTER

Open to all genders, the Women and Gender Center helps advance issues of gender equity and support the gender-focused needs of students, faculty, and staff, and address gender inequities and foster a campus community that values inclusion, social justice, equity, and respect for everyone regardless of background. Located in Tivoli 260 A1. Phone: (303) 315-7262.

<http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/studentlife/WGC/Pages/WGC.aspx>

## WRITING CENTER

The CU Denver Writing Center provides one-on-one consultations and workshops about writing and composition. This is not a copyediting service. Location: North Classroom Room 4014. Phone: (303) 315-7355. <https://clas.ucdenver.edu/writing-center/>



Master of Urban and Regional Planning Program

# STUDENT HANDBOOK

Fall 2020



University of Colorado **Denver**



**CU IN THE CITY**